

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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70

ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01

AGR-20 COME-00 EB-11 IO-14 MED-03 SCA-01 SCI-06

AID-20 DRC-01 SAB-01 /137 W  
----- 072569

P 052240Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6130

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0442

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CS, XK, XM

SUBJECT: REPORTED AFTOSA OUTBREAK IN COLOMBIA

REF: MANAGUA 0449

1. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK (MAG)  
BATALLA TOLD AGATT (CURRENTLY IN PANAMA) OVER WEEKEND  
THAT AS PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL LIVESTOCK SANITARY  
ORGANIZATION (OIRSA) HE HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO CALL AN  
OIRSA MEETING IN SAN JOSE FOR FEBRUARY 4. MEETING  
WAS ACTUALLY CONVOKED BY OIRSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARLOS MEYER  
AND WAS ATTENDED BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF  
NICARAGUA IN ADDITION TO BATALLA.

2. ACCORDING TO DR. LUIS SOLANO, HEAD OF ANIMAL  
HEALTH, MAG, MEETING WAS CALLED AS A RESULT OF AN  
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ALERT RECEIVED FROM PANAMA OF AN OUTBREAK OF FOOT

AND MOUTH DISEASE IN COLOMBIA SOME 18 KILOMETERS FROM THE COLOMBIAN/PANAMA BORDER, 35 ANIMALS REPORTEDLY ARE DISEASED WITHIN A HERD OF APPROXIMATELY 700 HEAD. SOLANO SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE COLOMBIAN ARMY HAD MOVED INTO THE AFFECTED AREA TO ISOLATE THE HERD AND WOULD BEGIN SLAUGHTERING OPERATIONS TODAY, FEBRUARY 5. HE SAID ALSO THE OIRSA MEETING HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE GOP HAD TAKEN ENERGETIC MEASURES FOR PROTECTING THE BORDER AND AVOIDING POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF AFTOSA VIA PORTS.

3. SOLANO SAID THE SAN JOSE OIRSA MEETING TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTION:  
A. DISCUSSED BUT REJECTED A PROPOSAL TO SEND A SPECIAL INSPECTOR TO COLOMBIA FOR AN ON-SITE INSPECTION OF THE DISEASED AREA.  
B. DISPATCHED LETTER TO THE GOP MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK URGING PANAMA TO SIGN SOONEST ITS AFTOSA AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. ON FEBRUARY 1, PRIOR TO THE OIRSA MEETING, BATALLA SENT SPECIAL MESSAGES TO U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ AND TO GOC MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK HERNAN VALLEJO CONCERNING THE PROBLEM. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF CABLE TO SECRETARY BUTZ FOLLOWS:  
"BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY AND GRAVITY OF THE MATTER CONSIDERED FOR THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AND MEXICAN AREA I WISH TO REPEAT TO YOU THE TEXT OF A CABLE WHICH I HAVE SENT ON THIS DATE TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OF COLOMBIA.

"IN THE NAME OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT WITH REGARD TO THE OUTBREAK OF AFTOSA ON THE COLOMBIA/PANAMA BORDER THAT YOU GIVE YOUR MOST ENERGETIC ASSISTANCE, APPLYING THE MEASURES THAT ARE EMBRACED WITHIN THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OF U.S. AND THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THIS EPIDEMIC. RESPECTFULLY

"SINCERDLY YOURS, FERNANDO BATALLA ESQUIVEL, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK".

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISEASE CONTROL, LIVESTOCK, ANIMAL DISEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** MANAGUA 0449  
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**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 FEB 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by kelleyw0>  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED AFTOSA OUTBREAK IN COLOMBIA  
**TAGS:** EAGR, CS, XK, XM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005